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The Light of our Spirit.

Mrs. BERTHA EHRLICH.

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The Light of Our Spirit.

BY

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Dedicated to my Children,

Edward, Charlotte and Elizabeth.

The Light of our Spirit.

CHAPTER I.

MY dear reader, in order to secure this insight we must take for our source our Heavenly Father. God is uncreative, spiritual, and His characteristics are eternal, unchangeable, all-powerful, omniscient, omnipresent, all-holy, righteous, truthful and merciful. These characteristics reveal to us that God has created heaven and earth, and through His all-powerful word, Jesus, (who existed before the foundation of the earth was laid) originated all that moved and lived on land and in water. All this God created in five days; and as He found His works all satisfactory He blessed them; then the sixth day He inspired man, whom He had created that day, with the breath of life. This man was a living soul before Him, dressed in the robe of righteousness. God named him Adam and

rejoiced over him, because He saw in him His divine image radiating in love and faith.

God allowed a heavy sleep to fall over Adam that He might take a rib from his body and make a woman out of it—the woman He gave to Adam as his help-mate. God blessed them and gave them sovereignty over all that He had created on land and in water. Thus all of God's works were complete the seventh day, and He rested from all His works and blessed the day.

As soon as He was rested He went to work again with man, because He had created him for eternal life, and thus He wanted to guide him through life in order to make him strong in spirit, fill him with wisdom and acknowledgment of his descent.

Adam and Eve saw the all-powerful hand of God under which they had to humble themselves. They heard the all-powerful voice which told them that they should guard against injustice; they should serve their neighbor in love both by word and by action.

God planted a garden in Eden wherein He placed man. All varieties of trees sprung forth, a pleasure to view, bearing fruit good to eat. Among the trees was a tree of life, and also a tree discriminate of good and evil. In

Eden was also a river for irrigation; and this garden Adam was to cultivate according to God's prediction. The Supreme Power told the first man to eat from all the fruit in the garden (that is, spiritual fruit) except from the tree discriminate of good and evil; because as soon as he had eaten from the latter he would die. In the command, *this you shall do*, and *this you shall not do*, a great severity is expressed. Yet we cannot help but feel that the most tender love is at the bottom of it all. God loves His children. But the serpent was more cunning than the other animals God had created. He tempted Eve by telling her that her eyes would be opened and she would know the difference between good and evil. She ate from the fruit and also gave her husband some of it to eat, and he ate. Their eyes were suddenly opened and they saw that they were naked. A sudden fear came over them because they heard the voice of God (in their spirit) who was walking in the garden. Adam and Eve hid themselves under the tree in the garden from His Majesty. "Where art thou?" a voice calls. God sees His child before Him in fear and trembling—wandering astray in the path of darkness—no more able to see His robe of honor (Jesus the holy love).

He asks man the question, "Who has told you that you are naked? Have you eaten from the tree I told you not to eat?" Adam blamed the woman God had given him; she had tempted him. God questioned the woman: "Why did you do that?" She says the serpent deceived her, and she ate. Upon the serpent the Lord laid the curse, and in majestic words made known to him that the descendants of the woman would crush his head.

Adam was no more allowed to cultivate the garden of Paradise (the garden of the blessed ones), because he permitted himself to be tempted by the temporal food, became haughty and thought himself God's equal. So God was compelled to lead Adam and his wife out of the garden. The scene of departure was very sad. They were now forced to labor very, very hard for their existence in a field that would bring forth thorns. At the entrance of the garden a cherub (an angel) was placed with an uplifted sword, to guard the passage to the tree of life.

Now listen further, my dear readers, about God's foresight and premeditation in regard to the first man. When God had

created Adam as representative of His image and honor (Eve for the honor of Adam), He appointed him as teacher and missionary: as teacher for his descendants (as inheritance); as missionary for all people on earth (as progenitor). In these two vocations he should sojourn before God, his father, in holiness and righteousness. But after he had been tempted to eat from the forbidden fruit, God, the Lord, saw immediately that he (Adam) no more sojourned before Him in childlike spirit, because he saw no more the source of holy and righteous love, Jesus the gracious light, which should lighten and guide him in all paths of life. He should bring up children born to him in this pure light.

My dear reader, God is light, in Him is no darkness. As soon as He had created heaven and earth, He sent forth Jesus, the first power of His almighty spirit, in words, "it will be light." God needed this light for all His works, and when He had at last created man, He put this light into his heart as a guide for his soul, that he might never go astray. Because God had created man as tenderly as a flower, and did not want that he should be injured in any way. God is all love, and thus he has made everything as lovely for man as

possible. God's extreme goodness towards Adam made him haughty; it was haughtiness that banished man from Paradise (not God) to labor in the thorny field (the hearts of his descendants), which was the source of much grief and care to Him. Man was henceforth destined to eat his daily bread in fatigue. God had shown to him and his wife His powerful hand, under which they were compelled to humble themselves.

God wanted to elevate man at a certain time.—When? If man had eaten the fruit God permitted him to eat; because if God elevates man He feeds him on spiritual fruits, in order to make him strong, firm, immovable in the meekness of his spirit, which contains the seal of holy love, and stands highest by God. This Adam knew, because he wanted to elevate himself before the face of God, his Father, but fell in fear of death. Because suddenly a spiritual darkness took place within him, and he could see only that which was before his natural eyes. God had created him to look into the hearts of his descendants and teach them.

But, my dear reader, Adam was led to repentance by the sorrowful life of his first two sons.

Cain through jealousy killed his brother Abel. God from heaven called to him through an angel, "Cain, where is your brother Abel?" Cain says he knows not, nor does he intend to be his brother's guard. The murderer felt safe in his evil deed—no one has seen him—but he is struck when the Almighty Judge makes known to him that the crime he committed was seen. He is seized with the same fear of death that his father had experienced in Paradise, when he hears the words that express his condemnation on earth—the earth having received from his hands the righteous blood of his brother.

Cain, according to God's sentence, was for the balance of his life to restlessly rove the world over. The murderer must acknowledge his deadly sin before God, he fears the sentence pronounced upon him, the torturous disquietude. He feared that in his sojourns somebody would kill him, but God prevented this by putting a sign on him that no one should kill him. This torturous disquietude still pursues the murderer of to-day; unsteady and flighty he still errs around until God suddenly brings him to light and leads him into the hands of the temporal judge. My young reader, we see here in the heart of Cain,

that treacherous vanity has taken hold which originated in the heart of the father. This inheritance in the son terminated in an actual criminal deed. This haughtiness has been inherited by all successive generations. Thus darkened the love toward God in their hearts.

God, who viewed His children from heaven, saw that the descendants of Adam did not beseech Him for true knowledge of wisdom—even did not desire it. So the people had no spiritual pilot. But while God gave Adàm a long life (930 years), he again acknowledged in his heart the power of wisdom, of which the grace of God again allowed him to be a participant. So many of his descendants acknowledged in old age the source of the right knowledge of the wisdom of holy love and received grace.

CHAPTER II.

BY the rapid increase of man on earth a spiritual darkness arose, although God called unto His children to come to Him. No one heard the voice in their spirit, because they were living in the lust of their temporal body; thus made themselves servants (slaves) of their own body. When a child was born to parents they did not beseech God for an obedient heart in the same. In obedience to God and to parents dwells prosperity and long life. God demands of the parents to beseech Him for obedience in their children; so that His name, Father, remains honored in the heart of the children--peace on earth and a pleasure for parents. But, my dear reader, in the obedience of showing due honor to God the parents have themselves failed, because they acknowledged not the spirit's light through the medium of a darkened heart. Through immorality man was trodden under the sod. Instead of being sovereign over a world so

beautifully created (filled with fruits of all kinds, gold, silver and precious stones), the world ruled over man and soon buried him in the dust and dirt. Then spoke the Lord through an angel, that the people no more allowed Him to admonish them. Yet He was willing to give them one hundred and twenty years to reform. The Heavenly Father looked down upon His people and listened, but He heard no one mention the name of God. From His superior abiding place He saw that the people did not recognize His great mercy, but continued stubbornly to live their lascivious lives. The Lord regretted that He had made man. He felt very sorry over the disobedience of man, and decided to exterminate all, man as well as animals on earth.

Noah found grace before the Lord, because he was a pious man and preached righteousness on earth, and firmly believed that what God said He could do. Noah had three sons. The earth before the eyes of God was full of frivolity; all humanity was degraded before the Lord. God commanded Noah to build an ark, naming in detail the material necessary for building, and also giving the dimensions. After all was completed God told Noah that He would flood the earth and destroy all

all on it that had a vital Adam in it. All on earth shall be drowned. But He wanted Noah to go into the ark with his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives. God commanded him also to put into the ark all kinds of animals, cattle, birds, worms—all in pairs of opposite sex; he was compelled also to take with him all kinds of food that were eatable, so that he might be supplied with nourishment. Noah did all that God bade him do. God then told him to go into the ark with his whole family, because he had been righteous up to date. Seven days later God sent rain for forty days and forty nights and flooded the whole earth, even the highest hills were covered. Noah was six hundred years old at the time of the flood. All living perished except the contents of the ark. The flood remained on earth one hundred and fifty days.

My dear reader, all who perished in the flood had through their stubborn heart sinned deeply against their Heavenly Father. They had saddened Him, because they corrupted His blessed earth with the frivolity of their body, through evil, unrighteous words and works.

At the end of the time God thought of Noah and the animals in the ark and gave a

wind to reduce the water. The seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark landed on Mt. Ararat. The water went down gradually, and the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains could be seen.

After forty days Noah opened the window and let a raven fly forth;—it flew back and forth until the land was dry. Then he let a dove fly forth to find out how low the flood was, but the dove found no place to put her foot to rest and came back again. The earth was still covered with water. Noah reached his hand out of the window and gently took the dove back into the ark. He waited patiently seven days longer and then sent out another dove; she came back to him and brought a leaf in her bill. Now Noah was convinced that the water had fallen a great deal. He waited seven days longer and then sent a dove forth again. But this dove did not return to him. Now he opened the roof of the ark, and saw that the earth was dry.

My young reader, by the flood God shows us that He loved the earth just as much as heaven. Because when He created heaven and earth He destined heaven for His chair and earth for His foot-stool. And the people He had created were to live on the earth dedi-

cated to them in holiness and righteousness neighborly together. So His will might be done on earth as in heaven, and His feet might rest on earth. But the children of man, through their disobedience, spoiled all. All that God had said to them through an angel, they could not hear through the spirit of their enslaved sinful body. The heart of the people was enveloped in darkness, so the earth also seemed destitute of light to them.

God, in His almighty power, who is love itself, gracious and merciful, assured Noah that He would never again curse the earth on account of man, because there is a tendency in the human heart towards evil from youth up. Never again would He crush all that lives as He had done. But He will seek vengeance in each individual case—whoever will spill the blood of man, his blood shall also be spilled by man, because they are all images of the same source. All this God revealed to Noah and his sons when He led them out of the ark. God made the agreement between Himself and Noah (his sons included) that He would never again destroy all on earth by a flood and He gave the rainbow as a symbol of this covenant. The rainbow really represents the covenant between

heaven and earth. God tells us if there are clouds in the sky, the rainbow shall be seen in them. It serves as a reminder of the covenant between Himself and us and all living animals, that there shall never again be a flood to destroy all flesh. The three sons of Noah dispersed and populated all lands. Noah engaged in agriculture—planted a vineyard. He lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood and died at the age of nine hundred and fifty years.

CHAPTER III.

NOW, my dear reader, through the three sons of Noah (Shem, Ham and Japheth) God again began to populate the world with mankind, that should reign supreme on earth. Although God had promised never to flood all earth again with water and destroy all flesh, yet he had by no means given up to destroy man; for those who would sin against His holy will, for them He had instituted the penalty of death.

Since God knows hearts, He did not rejoice over the descendants of the sons of Noah, because He knew very well that the sin of Adam, which had thoroughly saturated all flesh, would again make its appearance—that poisonous plant in the heart, *vanity*. We can plainly see that God did not regret the destruction of man in the flood, but He regretted to devastate earth in full bloom and all that can be called beautiful—and all the animals, too, on account of man's impurity.

In the creation of heaven and earth God exerted the whole strength of the power of His almighty spirit.

As the children of the descendants of Noah scattered about they traveled in different lands. The descendants of Shem found a plain in the land of Shinar, and made it their dwelling place.

The whole world then spoke one language. All the descendants of Shem held council and decided to build a city and a tower in their land. The summit of the tower should reach to the sky. The work, when completed, should serve as an honor to *their name*. God, whose eyes are directed upon His children all the time, saw that they were seeking honor for self, but He allowed them to go on with the work. With hard labor they prepared the bricks for the work. Just as they were busily building, God came to them that He might see the city and tower the children of man were constructing. As God saw that they would not relent in the work they had undertaken, but carry it through, then God exerted in the power of the holy trinity, His influence. He scattered the laborers and changed the language of each one, so that they could not understand each other. From that moment

they were compelled to stop their gigantic work, because they all spoke a different language. The incomplete tower was henceforth called the Tower of Babel.

Out of the tribes of Shem God chose Abraham, the son of Terah, in order to bless through him all nations on earth. God called him when he was still a youth, and blessed him, and made a covenant with him, because He found him faithful in heart. When his father died he received word that he should enter the field of missionary work. He commanded him to go forth from his native land, from his friends and from his father's house, into a land that He would show him. There He would make a great nation of him, bless him and make his name famous. And the Lord led Abraham with his wife Sarai into the land of the Canaanites and allowed him to wander through the land. After he had traveled through Canaan he came to Sichem and in the plain of Mamre pitched his tent, built an altar for the Lord and preached His name. The Lord had appeared to him in a vision, and told him that his descendants should have the land. Abraham was a man who doubted not the promises of God, but

was firm in faith and gave God the honor. He knew very well that whatever God promised He fulfilled. As God had examined his heart and his works, He counted his faith towards righteousness, and presented him the inheritance of the holy ones. God blessed Abraham and the blessing of Abraham also spread among the heathens. Only the righteous will live their life in Christ.

Immorality had almost reached the stage of degradation that it had in the time of Noah. The Lord saw all from heaven. He told Abraham (through an angel) that there was a cry in Sodom and Gomorrah which was great, and their sins heavy. Abraham's brother's son, by the name of Lot, lived in Sodom with his wife and two daughters. God sent two men (angels) to Lot (Abraham's nephew). These two men came to Lot in the evening as he was sitting at the gate. He very graciously received strangers and gave them lodging—so he greeted these strangers and invited them under his roof over night, and his wife prepared a meal. After they had dined they wanted to go to rest for a little while. The cry of people is heard, young and old, people from all directions surround the house of Lot. They demand Lot and inquire

for the strangers, saying: "Bring them out unto us, that we may know them." Lot went out to them and locked the door behind him, and said: "Brethren, do not so wickedly." They would not listen, but pressed harder and harder, because Lot was a stranger in their midst. They attempted to break the door, when suddenly Lot was seized by the two strangers and pulled into the house, and the other men at the door were stricken with blindness, so they could not find the door.

Early in the morning the two angels asked Lot and his wife and two daughters to hasten out of town to the mountains and save their lives there. Lot had found grace before the Lord and told the two men: "I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil take me and I die." So he hastened to the little town of Zoar, which he reached at sunrise.

The Lord allowed brimstone and fire to rain down from heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah. He desolated the cities, devastated the community surrounding the cities—laid all the fields waste. Here, my dear reader, the words of the Lord to Noah at the time of the flood were already executed. In the blood of their body He sought vengeance. The Lord thought of Abraham. About this

time a son was born to Abraham by Sarai, his wife, and he named him Isaac. Abraham reared him according to the word of God, the Lord, that is to do all that is righteous and good. My dear reader, when God appeared unto Abraham and said to him: "I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect," from that time on Abraham received a supernatural insight into the light that the darkened hearts cannot conceive (and even to-day not).

It was due to Abraham's obedience to the voice of God that the Heavenly Father revealed to him the coming of Jesus, the Redeemer of the world from death. When Isaac was forty years old he took unto himself a wife from Mesopotamia, according to the wish of his parents. Abraham died at the age of one hundred and seventy-five, and his mother lived to be one hundred and twenty-seven years old.

There was a famine in the land as in Abraham's time. Isaac went to Abimelech, King of the Philistines in Gerar. Isaac had been warned in a vision not to go into Egypt, but to remain in the land that God would tell him of, and sojourn there and God would be with him and bless him. Isaac inherited much

land which fell to his heirs. He also received the same blessings that his father had received from God. Isaac sowed the land and harvested the same year grain a hundred-fold. The blessing of the Lord rested upon him. He became very wealthy and his opulence was very much envied by the Philistines.

From jealousy the Philistines filled up with earth all the wells that Abraham had once ordered to be made, so that there was no water for Isaac's cattle to drink. Even the king envied him and the blessing bestowed upon him, and commanded him to move away from him, because he was growing too powerful. Isaac moved away with his wife Rebekah and his two sons, Jacob and Esau; also his shepherds with the herds of cattle, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar. He ordered the wells of Abraham's time to be opened again. The shepherds in the valley of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's shepherds about the water. So Isaac moved away further and had a well dug and from henceforth the shepherds quarreled no more. Isaac rejoiced over the peace among them and thanked God for the space He had given him on earth. The Lord appeared to him the night he went to Beer-she-ba and said: "I am the God of Abra-

ham, thy father: fear not, for I am with thee and will bless thee." He built an altar there and preached the name of the Lord.

Abimelech and his chief captain of the army visited him. When Isaac greeted them he said: "Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me and have sent me away from you?" They saw now with certainty that the Lord was with Isaac, that he was a blessed child, and they wanted to take a mutual oath and live in peace and harmony henceforth. Isaac, who loved peace, cheerfully consented to Abimelech's proposition. The king and captain went home feeling peaceful at heart. Isaac was chosen by the Lord to do the same work that his father had done—go to foreign lands and preach the word of the Lord.

CHAPTER IV.

OF the two sons of Isaac the older one, Esau, was a hunter and husbandman, while the younger, Jacob, was chosen for similar work as his father and grandfather. Although Isaac blessed both his sons, yet the greater blessing rested upon the one who remained in the land of promise: that was Jacob. Since the blessing of the Lord rested upon him as upon his father, he was chosen to follow the foot-steps of his father—that is, spread the glory of God's word throughout lands.

My dear reader, when Jacob went to Mesopotamia upon the request of his parents, he reached there after sunset. He laid himself to rest in the open field and used a stone for his pillow. He had a dream in which he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and angels were ascending and descending the same. And above it stood the Lord, saying: "I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father,

and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest; to thee will I give it. And behold I am with thee and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and I will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." When Jacob awoke he felt assured that God was in that place and he knew it not. Jacob had surely found a sacred spot. It seemed to him that the gate of heaven must be there. He arose early in the morning and took the stone upon which he had rested his head and poured oil over it; and he felt that God would be with him all the time and bring him peacefully back to his father's house. The angels of God were always with Jacob. His wife, Rachel, was a very pious woman, and her son, Joseph, received a very high position with Pharoah, because he could interpret the king's dream in regard to the seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine.

During the seven years of prosperity Joseph had many granaries built for Pharoah, and bought grain from all lands and deposited it in these granaries. Then during the seven years of famine the people from all lands came to buy grain from Pharoah.

Joseph's father and brother also experienced famine, but since Joseph had made Pharoah so rich he told him to take his father and brothers with their families as well as herds of cattle and give them the best portion of land in Egypt, and also maintenance. Jacob lived seventeen years in Egypt and died at the age of one hundred and forty-seven years, seeing his children all prosperous, all due to the goodness of Joseph's services. He blessed all his children and died in peace. Joseph had his father embalmed by physicians, which took forty days, then he took his body, according to the paternal wish, to Canaan and buried him beside Rachel. Joseph deeply mourned the death of his father. Joseph had two sons on whom Jacob showered blessings.

These three men (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) God chose from their brothers and sent them into the land of Canaan into which God promised to send Jesus, the Messiah, in flesh. These three messengers always gave God the honor in their teaching and missionary work. And God always made himself known to them (in holy love) when they felt depressed about the general disbelief in the Creator. There was no faith in God; no one

called to Him—the world must be reformed. The Saviour of the world must come in the flesh; must go forth from God, his father, and be born as man. This all the three strangers knew, and followed the voice of God, built altars and preached the name of the Lord. Even though the people knew nothing about their God (Creator) they should hear something about Him through them, through their personal piety, their missionary work, and their altars. Though Jacob had many hard experiences, yet he felt that it was the will of God. The hatred and envy of the sons of Jacob towards their brother, and the wonderful guidance of God serves as a profitable example for many.

CHAPTER V.

ANOTHER king came to Egypt who knew nothing of Joseph. The descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob became very numerous in Egypt, so that the king began to fear their power. In case of war the Israelites might join with the enemy against Egypt. The king appointed governors over the Israelites, who oppressed them most unmercifully, compelling them to work in mortar and brick. The children of Israel sighed over their work and cried unto the Lord and He heard them and took mercy upon their lamentable condition. He appointed a man out of their tribe, who was to lead them back to their beloved land of Canaan. This man was Moses, to whom God made Himself known while he was tending sheep at the foot of Mt. Horah, in the Midian land. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a bush of flames, yet the bush was not consumed. Moses turned to go nearer to the bush, but when God saw

his movements, the angel of the Lord spoke to him: "Moses, Moses." He answered: "Here am I." The Lord said: "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Moreover he said: "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmakers; for I know their sorrows and I come to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land into a good land and a large, into a land flowing with milk and honey. Behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." And Moses said unto God: "Who am I, that I should bring forth the children out of Egypt?" God commanded him to go and told him that He would be with him. Moses should tell the children of Israel that God,

their father, had sent him. God made him famous, gave him sovereignty over the Israelites and glorified his name. He was chosen for a holy calling on account of his faithfulness and meekness. Moses often heard the voice of the Lord, because he had a godly calling in which it was necessary to converse with God very frequently.

My dear reader, through Moses God sent ten plagues upon Egypt before the king would allow the Israeliees to leave the land. This plague fell upon all people so that they might acknowledge the sovereignty of God in the light of Jesus. All this strengthened the faith of Moses and he firmly saw that God could do all He promised. Moses was convinced from all the symbols he had seen that he was a child of God, his heavenly father. So God had him in full command in the light of His spirit. Moses was now competent to teach and guide the children of Israel.

The Israelites had a very poor conception of God; they were unable to recognize His mercy in their miserable situation in Egypt, even though Moses taught them that all children of man should near themselves to Him, and see His glory in the face of His beloved son. But they could not get this

clearness in their heart, because they were a stubborn people and preferred to seek their honor among men instead of with God. So they could find no peace in their breasts.

God, through Moses, gave the Israelites the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai. The children of Israel had received the command to assemble at the foot of the Mount and hear the voice of the Lord. And as it began to lightning and thunder, and the sound of trumpets was heard, and Mt. Sinai began to smoke, they became alarmed and beseeched Moses to talk with them. They were willing to obey Moses now, because they feared if God spoke to them they would die. Moses comforted them and told them not to fear, because God was very gracious and merciful and they should always have him in their mind, so as not to sin. It was proven that God talks with man on earth. So you see, my dear reader, that everything is possible with God. He talked to Moses (in the light of His spirit) as a man converses with his friend, except that the heavenly voice always seems to penetrate through a cloud.

Moses once desired to see God face to face, but God told him that would be impossiblc, because any man that would see His

face would die. And the Lord said: "Behold there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: and it shall come to pass while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover thee with my hand while I pass by; and I will take away my hand and thou shalt see my back parts; but my face shall not be seen." So you all see that God has taught man through his faithful servant, Moses. God commanded him to interpret to all parents His commandments; and the parents in turn interpret them to their children. There is nothing lovelier than to love God; and nothing sweeter than to learn, respect and follow His commandments.

At the age of one hundred and twenty Moses blessed the children of Israel and appointed Joshua as his successor, and then died at Mt. Nebo. Joshua followed the footprints of Moses.

CHAPTER VI.

GOD sent prophets that made known the coming of Jesus in flesh. Isaiah was the most renowned. He lived about 700 B. C. He testified of the godly grace which is not to be secured by external ceremony but through a purified heart. He foretold of the coming of Christ as the good shepherd. All the prophets from Moses unto Malachi foretold of the coming of Christ in flesh for the honor of God, peace on earth and for the pleasure of man.

So, my young reader, you have many times observed that God talked frequently to Moses and the prophets and made known by various symbols that He is the Creator of heaven and earth. He said that He would once more move not only earth but also heaven.

The majority of people in the Old Testament time lived in fear of death, except those who had acknowledged that for every

breath of life the power of God was necessary. It is not the powerful arm, the almighty word of this spirit, but all this impetus, which enlivens body, soul and mind, originates from His loving heart. The people in the Old Testament, who lived with this thought in their mind have talked much to their children about obedience. God promises long life and prosperity to children that love and obey their parents. Therefore, children, be agreeable towards your parents in thoughts and words when they approach you with admonitions, that you do not disinherit the rest of your life. A child may delay in erecting a monument in memory of its parents, but it is never too late to do that. But if a child fails to show love and obedience to them, while alive, they may have a life's remorse, because God frequently takes them away without warning. Take my advice and do not wait until too late. Gather your golden apples in time for the future. To live in fear of death is nothing more than to live in sin. The people who are not healed through the righteousness of Christ's blood will have to die with this torturing ailment. They fear death—they have horror of the grave—they dread eternity.

Jesus suffered the sin of man from the

beginning of the world, and will until the end of it. Therefore He went forth from God, and burdened upon Himself the sins of man and gave us eternal life—brought us light by His guiltless death on the cross. God did not prevent the Saviour's death, although He could have done it. He could have destroyed the children of men in a moment, who refused to acknowledge Christ as His son (the first power that went forth from His glory) in their thoughts, words nor actions. They rejoiced to see Him crucified—they preferred to seek their own honor instead of giving the honor to God in the glory of His son.

Jesus was sent from God and born of the Virgin Mary, who had been overshadowed by God's almighty spirit. This was made known to Mary by an angel; the spirit of God rested upon her because she believed the words from the angel's lips. The angel also appeared to Joseph and made known to him the divine origin of the child of his wife.

The birth of the son of God was first made known to the shepherds that were herding sheep during the night near Bethlehem. The shepherds feared the presence of the glory of the angel, so the heavenly vision said to them: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you

good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." As they came they found everything as the angel had told them. They made the glorious tiding known to all. There was a pious man in Jerusalem by the name of Simeon (an Israelite) who was to behold Christ before he died. So he went to the temple and when the parents came with the child he took it in his arms and praised God and said: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of thy people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy

people Israel." This pious Israelite destined the Saviour for the rescue of his people and a light for the Gentiles, but after his death things took a different turn. His race did not want to recognize Jesus as the son of God born from Trinity—because He was poor and lowly born from a virgin. They expected a Messiah to descend from heaven in splendor and glory, not a simple child that grew up among them as a teacher of divinity and a joy for children. No, they chose not to listen to Him. When twelve years old He went into the temple and there surprised the learned by His wise answers to questions that were asked Him.

CHAPTER VII.

JESUS entered the ministerial services at the age of thirty. The wonderful utterances which were sent forth from His powerful spirit surprised and greatly alarmed the Pharisees, who made themselves appear pious externally by the use of sacred sentences—internally they were full of hypocrisy and vice. They cleansed their bodies with costly salves, but their hearts were full of rapine and malice. They pursued Jesus wherever He went and asked Him mean questions in order to make Him fall short of the requisites of the son of God. They could not do this because He practised what He preached. His life was spent in blessing those that condemned Him; He did well to those that hated Him; He prayed continually for those that offended Him, beseeching His father to forgive them. With this child-like spirit He subdued His enemies and won the victory, which surely showed that He was the son of God. The victory of Christ meant victory for all men for all time.

Logic

Jesus stood for the truth, and the truth is holy love to God and man. Jesus was the light that came into the world to clear the path of truth and life. The Lord speaks frequently of this light in His sermons. Jesus calls Himself the light and says whoever follows Him shall not sojourn in darkness, but will have the light of life. If the people, who had sunken low into envy and vanity, had listened to the Lord of Glory they would never have crucified Him, who was prophesied by their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as the light of their heart. Jesus simply taught the reflection of Himself. He was sent forth from God: first word in light (the first power of His glory); then flesh in light (the same power of God in the seed of the chosen Virgin Mary) becoming the son of man (but in His glory a son of God) in order to unlock Paradise again and look into the hearts of His own and teach them. But only by spiritual work through clearness of the flesh did He fulfill the will of His father.

All men from the time of Adam have been created by the almighty hand of God out of earth, and received the breath of His holy spirit. This life will be eternal. God has created all His children for heaven and does

not want to lose one in the abyss of damnation. All those that believed in Jesus shall view His glory forever. Therefore, my young reader, be not mislead—give Jesus your hand so you will not go astray—follow the footprints of Jesus. All those who journey in the path of light will, attired in white garments, sing before the throne of God with all the heavenly angels, "Praise be to God on high."

When Jesus sojourned on earth He told man that this life is an earnest time, a watchful time, and a calling time. By earnest time is meant to work for our salvation by doing good. And the watchful time means that we should be firm in our belief in Christ so that the calling time may not surprise us and lead us through the door of death. To die with Jesus is to go into quiet repose, awaiting a joyous resurrection. To die without Jesus is death eternal. Consider carefully the punishment of unworthy pleasures.

The joy of eternal life is to see God; the joy of the chosen ones is to see Jesus. To view God is the angels' joy and food; their favorite drink is the christening of little children, and then bringing them up in the love of Jesus. The angels know that Jesus dries the first tear of every child as well as the last tear

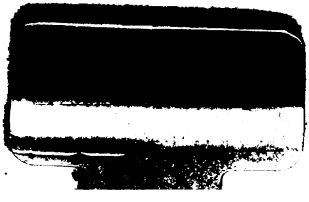
of death, whether the person is one or a hundred years old. Jesus is always ready to help, be it in pleasure or in pain. The holy bath of baptism is a gracious gift from God revealed to us through Jesus. God blesses the baptism of Holy Trinity.

The holy sacrament originated from God and was instituted by Jesus, in order that sins may be forgiven and we may find grace by God. We must be reconciled with our neighbor before we dare partake of the Lord's supper. The Bible will help us to accomplish reconciliation. "Agree with thine adversary quickly while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and then be cast into prison." The Bible is the most valuable book for temporary and spiritual life, and will stand even though heaven and earth may vanish. The *word of God* is imperishable. The contents of the Bible are defensive. The Bible answers all questions that parents or children may ask.

The greatest wealth for you, my reader, is to have truly Christian parents, who honor their heavenly father, because then you are already blessed by their good deeds—all their

works are approved by God through Jesus. Your parents may give you wealth so you can live happy—it is all dead; your pleasure in this life is only temporary, but to live in Jesus is joy eternal.

Many young people go to destruction because they are carried away by the admiration of beautiful clothes. They think clothes make people—they consider not how meaningless the words are, because clothes do not make people, but they make cares for the rich as well as the poor. But honor makes people and pleases the heart. Honor that pleases the heart comes directly from God and is free from envy and lasts until death, leaving a lovely memory. This honor God grants to obedient hearts, which have the tenderness and meekness of Jesus. The people that always seek the pleasures of the world and never ask for God, meet the same fate as the rich man in Luke 16:25. No eternal comfort will come to those who are eternally dead before God. Here is the time of grace, for hereafter the condemned will suffer; their senses will suffer; they will taste the eternal bitterness of death. Consider carefully the seriousness of eternity.

As surely as Jesus went forth from God during creation to lighten the world, just so surely He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary and became the teacher of sinners. Then He ascended into heaven to dwell with His father again. He will come again but that will be to judge us. Judgment day will come as surely as night follows day and day follows night. When this day will be no one knows, not even His Son, to whom He has entrusted all power both fn Heaven and on earth—He will also announce the final judgment. Judgment day will not come until the word of Jesus has been heard in all ends of the world. Upon those who have brought souls to Christ a merciful judgment will be passed; to those who have kept aloof no mercy will be shown. My young reader, consult carefully Matthew 25, and study this chapter until you feel that it is your own. You will then feel assured that you are a child of your heavenly father, and you will also feel that you can only be happy when you serve Jesus.

Dann trocknet Jesus
In Sterbensstunde
Den Schweiss der Stirne
Dir mit sein'm Kleide
Zur Himmelsreise.